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PROFESSOR RYO KIYAMA

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The Editor of this Review, Prof. Ryo Kiyama, passed away at the age of fifty-two on September 2, 1957 of a sudden fit of cerebral extravasion. His funeral services was held at the Chokyuji temple in Kyoto on September 14 by the hand of the Chemistry Institute of Kyoto University. The Emperor of Japan granted a donation for the funeral and decorated him with the sub-fourth court rank and the fourth class order of the Sacred Treasure.

We deeply lament his death.

Prof. Ryo Kiyama was born on May 23, 1905, and finished the primary and the middle schools at Koriyama city in Fukushima Prefecture where his father occupied a position in the National Railroad Service. He was naturally taciturn, made a good record, distinguishing himself among his classmates, and was considered to be a man of ability in future. His higher school days were spent freely and bluffly at Mito and contributed to build up his character through the exercise of Judo. Then he entered the Chemistry Institute, Faculty of Science, Kyoto University, devoted himself to study chemistry, and was graduated at the University in 1931. His life of research began as a chemist in the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry directed by the then Prof. S. Horiba (President of this Society, Professor Emeritus, M. J. A.). His first research work was about the interesting and difficult problems on the effect of light on colloidal particles. The improvement of ammonia-soda process by means of the phase rule made him acknowledged as a man of originality and made him enter in 1934 the Nihon Soda Company. He was a man of energy in the research work of the Company and took leadership among the younger researchers. In 1937, he made a tour of inspection for the research of ultra high pressure in relation to ammonia synthesis. Retiring from the Company in 1940, he came back to the Institute for Chemical Research of Kyoto University as a researcher to complete the studies on the catalyst for ammonia synthesis and obtained the degree, Doctor of Science, in 1942.

After obtaining the doctorate, he devoted himself to the study of the field of high pressure under his honoured teacher, Prof. S. Horiba. His endeavours made him succeed in designing and constructing 5000 atm. gas intensifier in spite of the difficulties in the war time. Appointed a lecturer, and then promoted to an assistant professor at Kyoto University in 1944, he sacrificed himself to advancement of the research work as a chief stuff in the Laboratory. In 1948, he occupied the chair of professor of physical chemistry, in place of Prof. S. Horiba who reached the age limit and retired. He made a great effort to recover the Laboratory from the war time exhaustion and to amplify the establishment for the research of high pressure chemistry. His Laboratory became more and more famous in the world as a research institute for physico-chemical research under high pressure. His devotion is noteworthy for the establishment of the ultra high pressure intensifier of 30,000 atm. in the Seismological Observatory at Abuyama.

All of his and his pupil's research works have been published in this Review, and the list of works of high pressure chemistry is found in Volume 26, No. 1 (1956) of this Review. The range of the subject of his high pressure research is wide and may be considered as physical chemistry

where pressure is taken as a variable. The chief subjects of his works are as follows: High pressure apparatus (8)*, Construction materials (4), P-V-T relations (10), Solubility (6), Viscosity of gases (5), Crystal and color center (14), Infra-red absorption (7), Colloid (5), Chemical reaction (17), Reaction rate (12), Explosion (4). The total number of his high pressure original works amounts to ninety-two and the reports unpublished are nearly ten in number which will be published in the following issue of this Review. These numerous results of his research for about ten years as a professor are all owing to his distinguished ability and amazing effort. We are deeply regretful for the loss of a great scientist as he was, when considering how many more results would be obtained in future by his hand.

Prof. Kiyama took kindly to justice and was of a disinterested and honourable character as of a true old samurai. The training of his pupils was awfully strict though with his great parental love, and he took the complete responsibility for it. The number of his pupils amounts to about seventy and they deeply esteem him as their master.

He was in close contact and had chances to chat with the workers of high pressure industry such as ammonia synthesis in Japan, and was the only man of ability and knowledge as a leader of the research in the high pressure industry.

The portrait of Prof. Kiyama is in the present Review. We pray for the repose of his soul and are eager to circulate his great results permanently. (J. O.)

* The number in the bracket is that of the reports.